

## ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION



**US Army Corps  
of Engineers** ®  
San Francisco District

### **Project Map**

## **RUSSIAN RIVER WATERSHED MANAGEMENT STUDY CALIFORNIA**

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICTS: 1<sup>st</sup> District, Rep. Mike Thompson; 6<sup>th</sup> District, Rep. Lynn Woolsey

STUDY DESCRIPTION: The 1,485 square mile Russian River Basin is located approximately 65 miles north of San Francisco, along the Northern California Coast. The basin includes the following existing Corps multi-purpose projects: Coyote Valley Dam/Lake Mendocino, completed in 1959; Russian River channel stabilization measures, completed in 1972; and Warm Springs Dam/Lake Sonoma, completed in 1984. Problems along the river include: 1) a significant drop in the base level of the main stem of the river which has caused tributaries to downcut, undermining bridges and exposing water and sewer utilities; 2) a lowering of groundwater levels along the floodplain adjacent to downcut channels, impacting both local water companies and landowners; and 3) increases in bank saturation and failure, channel scour, and loss of riparian wetlands and private lands. Two anadromous fish species (steelhead trout and Coho salmon), which were once abundant in the river, are now listed as a threatened species under the Endangered Species Act.

FISCAL YEAR 03 BUDGET: \$200,000

POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS: The September 28, 1994 House Committee on Public Works and Transportation Resolution requested the Corps review previous reports on the Russian River, review the effects of Coyote and Warm Springs Dam on the Russian River and its tributaries, and determine whether modifications of their recommendations are advisable in the interest of environmental protection and restoration, erosion control and streambank protection, ground water supplies, and other purposes. The District commenced a Reconnaissance level study in July 1996 and completed the study in September 1997. The Reconnaissance Study recommended continuing into the feasibility phase with two separate studies: 1) a Russian River Watershed Management Study; and 2) a Santa Rosa Creek Ecosystem Restoration Study. On November 17, 1997, Corps headquarters approved the District's Reconnaissance Report recommendations. FY 98 and FY 99 Russian River Watershed Management Study efforts included extensive Federal, State, and local coordination to develop the Project Study Plan (PSP), which was certified by the Corps in January 1999. Other FY 99 efforts included extensive coordination with the local sponsor, the California Resources Agency, to negotiate a Feasibility Cost Sharing Agreement (FCSA). The FCSA was submitted for approval to USACE in December 1999. The FCSA was executed in June 2000. In FY98, under a Memorandum of Understanding with the Sonoma County Water Agency and the National Marine Fisheries Service, the Corps began a multi-year Section 7 Endangered Species Act consultation concerning Coyote Valley Dam and Warm Springs Dam operation impacts on the Coho salmon and steelhead trout.

FUTURE EFFORTS: Completion of Phase 1 of the Watershed Management Study is scheduled for FY03. Initiation of Phase 2 is scheduled for FY03; the Study is scheduled for completion in June 2006. Completion of the Section 7 Biological Assessments and submittal to the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) is scheduled for early 2003. Completion of the Section 7 consultation is scheduled for FY03.